

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-071-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): To Be Determined

PROJECT NAME: May 2005 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: See Attached

APPLICANT: BLM/Colorado State Office

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional): N/A

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The BLM proposes to sell 11 parcels of public lands/minerals, comprising 5362.47, in May of 2005. These parcels would be offered at public auction along with several other parcels in other jurisdictions. Following the auction, any unsold parcels could be sold non-competitively. Each lease would be issued subject to stipulations identified in the White River ROD/RMP. Additional, site-specific analyses would take place upon submission of individual Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs).

Parcels 2824, 2825 and 2778 include sections and/or aliquot portions which are within the Windy Gulch, Black Mountain, and Bull Canyon Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). Lands within WSAs are not currently available for leasing. Therefore, the specific sections within the parcels identified on the attached list as being in the WSAs have a strikethrough and will not be included as part of the proposed action for this DNA.

LAND USE PLAN (LUP) CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The proposed action is subject to the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

X The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

See page 2-5 of White River ROD/RMP

Decision Language: “Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.”

 The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing NEPA documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Name of Document: White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

List by name and date any other documentation relevant to the Proposed Action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Name of Document:

Date Approved:

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the Proposed Action substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. Leasing and subsequent development of oil and gas resources are specifically analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS: see pages 3-3, 3-4, and Appendix D. With the exception of certain formally identified Wilderness Study Areas, oil/gas leasing is provided for throughout the resource area, subject to stipulations and conditions of approval identified in Appendix A and Appendix B to the ROD/RMP. Stipulations specific to the lands considered for leasing are attached to this DNA

2. Was a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Action analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s), and does that range and analysis appropriately consider current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes, five alternatives, covering a full range of oil and gas leasing options, were addressed in the PRMP/FEIS (see Table 1-1). No reason to identify and analyze additional alternatives for the lands involved in this proposal have been identified or raised, and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for the proposed action.

3. Does the information or circumstances upon which the existing NEPA document(s) are based remain valid and germane to the Proposed Action? Is the analysis still valid in light of new studies or resource assessment information?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Previous analyses were based upon a reasonable foreseeable development scenario that estimated the drilling of approximately 1100 wells, over the twenty year life of the plan (roughly 55 per year). To date, the average number of wells drilled has been approximately 50 per year. Total disturbance was estimated at 10 acres per well (to include the pad, the road, and the pipeline). To date, the average disturbance per well has been less than 5 acres.

4. Does the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The methodology and analytic approach used in the PRMP/FEIS are appropriate for the current proposed action. No new technologies or methodologies have been proposed or are warranted.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Action unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

Yes. The anticipated direct and indirect impacts from oil and gas leasing/development are addressed in a resource-specific fashion in the PRMP/FEIS, based on a reasonable foreseeable development scenario that, to date, remains accurate. The anticipated direct

and indirect impacts of the proposed action are the same as those addressed in the PRMP/FEIS, and they were adequately addressed therein.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the Proposed Action unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Documentation of answer and explanation

Yes. The cumulative impacts of oil and gas developments, as well as other resource management actions, were addressed in the PRMP/FEIS based on a reasonable foreseeable development scenario, and has, to date, proven accurate. If implemented, the proposed action would not change this analysis, nor would it require new or additional analyses. The anticipated cumulative impacts of the proposed action are within the range of impacts analyzed in the PRMP/FEIS.

7. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation:

The public, interested groups, and other agencies, were fully involved in the development of the PRMP/FEIS.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this work sheet (by name and title).

The proposed action was presented to, and reviewed by the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on February 8, 2005.
Date

A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office.

Name(s)	Title(s)	Area of Responsibility
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources
Ed Hollowed, Bret Smithers, Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species, Wildlife, Migratory Birds, Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Recreation, Access and Transportation, Visual Resources
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality , Soils, Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights

Name(s)	Title(s)	Area of Responsibility
Robert Fowler, Melissa Kindall	Forester, Range Technician	Vegetation, Invasive, Non-Native Species, Forest Management,
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Penny Brown, Linda Jones	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: While cultural properties could be identified on the lands proposed for lease, no site specific surveys have been completed. Prior to approval of any site specific permits, such surveys would be required. Any identified properties or sites would be avoided, or mitigated, prior to being disturbed.

Native American Religious Concerns: There are no known Native American Religious Concerns.

Threatened and Endangered Species: A lease notice which alerts lessees of potential requirements regarding any threatened or endangered species is included in all parcels.

MITIGATION: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA documents(s).

List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures.

Document, that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented. See attached Lease Stipulations.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional): None

NAME OF PREPARER: Caroline Hollowed

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

DATE: 02/15/05

CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the land use plan and that the NEPA documentation previously prepared fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:


Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

2/16/05

Note: The signed Conclusion on this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

PARCEL LOCATIONS/LEASE STIPULATIONS

PARCEL ID: 2772 SERIAL #:

T. 0020N., R 0920W., 6TH PM

Sec. 8: NWN;E;
Sec. 19: Lot 6, 7;
Sec. 19: W2E2;
Sec. 20: N2NE, SENE;

Rio Blanco County
Colorado 359.760 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-04 to protect raptor nests; other:

Sec. 19: Lot 6, 7;
Sec. 19: W2E2

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-08 to protect big game severe winter range:

Sec. 19: Lot 6, 7;
Sec. 19: W2E2;
Sec. 20: N2NE, SENE

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-01 to protect fragile soils:

Sec. 19: W2E2

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-NSO-01 to protect landslide areas:

Sec. 20: N2NE, SENE

PVT/BLM; BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2773 SERIAL #:

T. 0020N., R 0930W., 6TH PM

Sec. 4: Lot 1, 16, 18, 23, 27, 29, 30;
Sec. 4: TR 38 Lot 15, 17, 19;
Sec. 4: TR 38 Lot 22, 25, 26, 28;
Sec. 4: S2SW, SWSE;
Sec. 9: Lot 1, 3, 8;
Sec. 10: Lot 14, 21, 22, 30;

Rio Blanco County
Colorado 458.720 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-NSO-03 to protect raptor nests; other species:

Sec. 4: Lot 1, 16, 18, 23, 27, 29, 30;
Sec. 4: TR 38 Lot 15, 17, 19;
Sec. 4: S2SW, SWSE

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-04 to protect raptor nests; other:

Sec. 4: Lot 1, 16, 18, 23, 27, 29, 30;
Sec. 9: Lot 1, 3, 8;
Sec. 10: Lot 14, 21, 22, 30

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-08 to protect big game severe winter range:

Sec. 4: Lot 1, 16, 18, 23, 27, 29, 30;
Sec. 4: TR 38 Lot 22, 25, 26, 28;
Sec. 9: Lot 1, 3, 8;
Sec. 10: Lot 14, 21, 22, 30

PVT/BLM; BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2791 SERIAL #:

T. 0030N., R 0930W. 6TH PM

Sec. 33: Lot 1, 5, 19, 28-31;
Sec. 33: NWSW;

Rio Blanco County

Colorado 106.980 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-04 to protect raptor nests; other:

Sec. 33: Lot 1, 5, 19, 28-31

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-07 to protect elk production areas:

Sec. 33: NWSW

PVT/BLM; BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2822 SERIAL #:

T. 0010N., R 0940W., 6TH PM

Sec. 6: TR 41 Lot 12;
Sec. 6: TR 42 Lot 20;
Sec. 18: Lot 1;
Sec. 31: Lot 25;

Rio Blanco County

Colorado 42.340 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-LN-02 to alert lessee of potential requirements to protect paleontological values:

Sec. 6: TR 42 Lot 20

PVT/BLM; BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2823 SERIAL #:

T. 0010N., R 0950W., 6TH PM

Sec. 1: Lot 1;

Sec. 1: SENE,S2SW,SWSE;
Sec. 11: N2NE,SENE,NENW;
Sec. 12: W2NW,NWSW;
Sec. 13: Lot 4;

Rio Blanco County
Colorado 480.770 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-LN-02 to alert lessee of potential requirements to protect paleontological values:

Sec. 1: Lot 1;
Sec. 1: SENE, S2SW, SWSE;
Sec. 11: N2NE, SENE, NENW;
Sec. 12: W2NW, NWSW

PVT/BLM; BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2824 SERIAL #:
T. 0010N., R 0950W., 6TH PM

Sec. 2: Lot 4;
Sec. 2: SWNE,S2NW,SW;
Sec. 2: W2SE,SESE;
Sec. 3: Lot 2;
Sec. 3: SWNE,NWSE;
~~Sec. 4: Lot 2-4;~~
Sec. 4: SWNE,~~S2NW~~, NWSW;

DELETE STIKETHROUGH FROM PARCEL, WSA
DELETE STIKETHROUGH FROM PARCEL, WSA

Rio Blanco County
Colorado 840.000 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-LN-02 to alert lessee of potential requirements to protect paleontological values:

Sec. 2: Lot 4;
Sec. 2: SWNE, S2NW, SW;
Sec. 2: W2SE, SESE;
Sec. 4: SWNE, NWSW

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-01 to protect fragile soils:

Sec. 3: Lot 2;
Sec. 3: SWNE, NWSE

PVT/BLM; BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2825 SERIAL #:
T. 0010N., R 0950W., 6TH PM

~~Sec. 19: Lot 1-4;~~
Sec. 19: SENE, W2E2, ~~E2W2~~, E2SE;
Sec. 20: SWNW;

DELETE STIKETHROUGH FROM PARCEL, WSA
DELETE STIKETHROUGH FROM PARCEL, WSA

~~Sec. 30: Lot 1-3, 4;~~
Sec. 30: W2E2, E2W2;

DELETE STIKETHROUGH FROM PARCEL, WSA
DELETE STIKETHROUGH FROM PARCEL, WSA

Rio Blanco County
Colorado 1113.560 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-01 to protect fragile soils:
Sec. 20: SWNW

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-04 to protect raptor nests; other:
Sec. 30: Lot 4

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-05 to protect Bald Eagle nest, roost and perch habitat:
Sec. 30: Lot 4

BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2826 SERIAL #:
T. 0010N., R 0950W., 6TH PM
Sec. 31: Lot 8, 11, 14;
Sec. 32: Lot 2,3,27,31;

Rio Blanco County
Colorado 197.260 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-05 to protect Bald Eagle nest, roost and perch habitat.

All lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-01 to protect fragile soils.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-TL-08 to protect big game severe winter range:
Sec. 31: Lot 8, 11, 14

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-LN-02 to alert lessee of potential requirements to protect paleontological values:
Sec. 32: Lot 2, 3, 27, 31

BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2836 SERIAL #:
T. 0010N., R 0950W., 6TH PM
Sec. 2: Lot 1-4;
Sec. 2: S2N2,S2;

Rio Blanco County
Colorado 622.880 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are subject to Exhibit WR-LN-02 to alert lessee of potential requirements to protect paleontological values.

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-01 to protect fragile soils:

Sec. 2: S2N2, S2

PVT/BLM; BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2777 SERIAL #:

T. 0050N., R 1030W., 6TH PM

Sec. 34: W2E2NE;

Sec. 34: SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Moffat County

Colorado 200.000 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

All lands are in a Citizen Wilderness Proposal area.

BLM; CDO: WRRRA

PARCEL ID: 2778 SERIAL #:

T. 0050N., R 1040W., 6TH PM

Sec. 25: SENE, S2NW, S2;

Sec. 26: Lot 9-14;

Sec. 35: Lot 7-10;

Sec. 35: Lot 11-12

~~Sec. 35: Lot 13, 14~~

DELETE STIKETHROUGH FROM PARCEL, WSA

Moffat County

Colorado 940.200 Acres

All lands are subject to Exhibit CO-34 to alert lessee of potential habitat for a threatened, endangered, candidate, or other special status plant or animal.

The following lands are in Citizen Wilderness Proposal areas:

Sec. 25: SENE, S2NW, S2;

Sec. 26: Lot 9-14;

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-CSU-01 to protect fragile soils:

Sec. 25: SENE, S2NW, S2;

Sec. 35: Lot 7-10

The following lands are subject to Exhibit WR-LN-02 to alert lessee of potential requirements to protect paleontological values:

Sec. 25: SENE, S2NW, S2;

BLM; CDO: WRRRA